

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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## CONTENTS.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.		Army Medical Board, . . . . .	95
Iowa State Medical and Surgical Society, 93		Five Fund Prize, . . . . .	95
MEDICAL NEWS.		Obituary Record, . . . . .	95
Domestic Intelligence.—One ounce of Quinine		Foreign Intelligence—Prophylactic Value of	
given in Twelve Hours in a case of Con-		Belladonna in Scarlatina, . . . . .	95
gestive Fever, . . . . .	94	Influence of Geological Formations in the	
New Publications, . . . . .	94	Production of Disease, . . . . .	95
Extract of a Letter from the Librarian of the		Fish-Oil in Rickets, . . . . .	96
University of Edinburgh, (John Small), to		The Sanitary Conference at Paris, . . . . .	96
Dr. T. R. Beck, . . . . .	94	Operation for Cataract on a Bear. Death from	
Standards for Drug Inspectors, . . . . .	95	Chloroform, . . . . .	96
		Obituary Record, . . . . .	94
MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY,		TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES.	

### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

*Iowa State Medical and Surgical Society.*—This Society held its second annual meeting at Fairfield, on the 7th May last. The session was opened by an address by the President, Dr. Lowe, when, after the transaction of some preliminary business, the following officers were selected for the ensuing year:—

*President*, Dr. D. L. McGugin; *1st Vice-President*, Dr. J. F. Henry; *2d Vice-President*, Dr. J. Witherwax; *Recording Secretary*, Dr. E. D. Ransom; *Corresponding Secretary*, Prof. J. F. Sanford; *Treasurer*, Dr. Ramage; *Librarian*, Dr. Rauch; *Censors*, Drs. Siveter, Lowe, Sanford, Flint, Grubb, Ford, and Matthews.

Dr. Sanford, from the committee appointed to report upon the causes which contribute to depress the science and dignity of the medical profession of Iowa, made a report and introduced the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the practice of admitting young men to the study of medicine without a respectable preliminary education, greatly contributes to depress the science, dignity, and usefulness of our profession; and that this Society urge upon its members the propriety of examining all young gentlemen

who apply for the benefits of private pupilage upon their preparatory education, with a view to discourage such as are deficient in this respect from entering upon the study of a profession, in the ranks of which they can never attain pre-eminence, and the usefulness and dignity of which they are not competent to promote.

*Resolved*, That discussions upon scientific questions, connected more or less intimately with medical science, would promote a more accurate knowledge of the brilliant modern discoveries in animal chemistry and human physiology, and that to secure this object, it shall be the duty of the President at this, and each annual meeting hereafter, to appoint one member to read a paper at the next succeeding meeting, upon the various improvements and discoveries in medicine which have been made during the year, and one to read a paper upon the relations which the natural sciences bear to recent improvements and discoveries, and their agency in developing the resources of the healing art, and that these papers shall be made the theme of an evening's discussion during the sitting of the Society.

*Resolved*, That we will exert our influence, both by precept and example, in sustaining our code of medical ethics, and that all evasions or infractions of the great moral

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law of the profession, will forfeit the claim of any physician to the fellowship or privileges of our Society.

*Resolved*, That the practice of attending families by the year is deemed improper and mercenary by this Society, and that it strongly recommends to its members the discontinuance of a practice which is calculated to lower the moral standing of the profession and lessen the respect of community for its members.

On motion of Dr. Sanford,

*Resolved*, That any local medical society in this State may become auxiliary to the Iowa Medical and Chirurgical Society, by pledging itself by resolution to conform to the constitution, by-laws, and code of ethics, and to carry out the various recommendations which it may annually enunciate.

Dr. Rauch made a report on the medical and economical botany of Iowa, and Dr. Henry a report on the topography, climate, and diseases of Iowa.

A paper on paronychia was read by Dr. E. Lowe.

A resolution was adopted in favour of the erection of an asylum for the insane by the State; and also one for the appointment of a committee to visit the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Iowa University, with a view to ascertain and report to the Society, at its next annual meeting, how far the above-mentioned college is entitled to the confidence and patronage of the Society.

The code of ethics of the American Medical Association was adopted for the government of the Society, in place of the old code.

The Society adjourned to meet again at Fairfield on the first Wednesday in June, 1852.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*One Ounce of Quinine given in Twelve Hours in a case of Congestive Fever.*—Dr. AUSTIN FLINT, of Buffalo, has politely communicated to us the following letter, addressed to him by Dr. Walter A. Norwood, of Hillsboro', N. C.:—

"PROFESSOR FLINT,

"Dear Sir: I have received and perused with much interest your valuable report, and am not only willing, but anxious that my name should appear in connection with

it in the transactions of the Am. Med. Association. On two of the subjects treated of, viz., intermittent and typhoid fever, I could have communicated facts which would have been useful; but they would have taken us back several years, and were, I supposed, known to every one. I have an authentic case of an ounce of J. Farr's Quinine being given in about twelve hours in a case of congestive fever, followed by immediate recovery and no bad symptoms whatever, nor has any occurred since, although two years have elapsed. The physician in attendance (living about eighteen miles from me) left an ounce of quinine with the owner of the negro, and directed him to give it at short intervals until reaction took place. On calling next morning and re-visiting his patient, he was a great surprise in both instances he found him not dead, but nearly well, and his quinine all gone.

"Very respectfully yours,

"WALTER A. NORWOOD.

"HILLSBORO', June 10th, 1851."

*New Publications.*—We are pleased to announce that Messrs. Blanchard and Lea have published the fifth part of *MacLise's Surgical Anatomy*, which completes this truly splendid and valuable work. It is furnished at a price which puts it within the reach of every surgeon, and no one should neglect to secure a copy.

The same publishers have also just issued a new edition (the eighth) of *Dun-glison's Medical Dictionary*, thoroughly revised and augmented by the addition of upwards of four thousand terms not in the preceding edition, making it the most copious medical dictionary in the English language.

*Extract of a Letter from the Librarian of the University of Edinburgh (John Small) to Dr. T. R. Beck.*—"From the list of the medical graduates now sent, you will see that Dr. Horace Greene, in his valuable address 'On the Progress of Medicine in America,' has fallen into a mistake in stating (page 20) that it is only eighty-two years ago (that is, in 1769) since the first degree was conferred on an American, namely, by the University of Aberdeen on John Jeffries. You will see by the list now sent to you, that, in 1749, the degree of M.D. was conferred on John Moultrie, from Canada; and, in 1752, on

Charles Moore, from Pennsylvania, and there are many other examples before 1769 of this degree having been conferred by the University of Edinburgh on gentlemen from America."

**Standards for Drug Inspectors.**—The New York College of Pharmacy have adopted resolutions inviting the other colleges of pharmacy to meet in convention in New York, for the purpose of fixing on standards of quality for the government of drug inspectors, to be recommended to Congress for adoption. We trust this invitation will be generally accepted.

**Army Medical Board.**—An army medical board for examination of assistant surgeons for promotion, and of candidates for appointment to the medical staff of the army, will convene in the city of New York on the 15th of November next, and will probably continue in session three or four weeks.

**Fiske Fund Prize.**—The Fiske fund prize has been awarded this year to Dr. Worthington Hooker, of Norwich, Conn., for an essay on homœopathy.

**Obituary Record.**—DEAR SIR: Enclosed I forward to you for publication in the *American News and Library*, an obituary notice of the late Dr. JOHN BASKIN, of this county, and late delegate to our State Medical Society. His death was occasioned from internal injury received by the overturning of a buggy in which he was riding.

In the death of this gentleman community has sustained a loss of no ordinary degree. As a physician, a neighbour, and a friend, he enjoyed the respect, confidence, and esteem of all. As a husband and a father, he was kind, just, and considerate. Never allowing prejudice or passion to obtain the mastery, but ever consulting the dictates of reason and humanity, he was always a safe and a kind counsellor. As a Christian, his walk before and among his fellow-men was in accordance with his professions. The performance of duty to God and to his fellow-man always appeared to be the great object of his heart. His advanced age, about sixty-three years, had not weakened his mental powers. In all

matters pertaining to his profession, to the welfare of community, or to the public questions of the day, his views and opinion were held in high estimation. In common with others, we deplore the accident that has suddenly snatched him from our midst, and bow to the fiat of Providence that has called him from this to a brighter world.

The accident that occasioned his death occurred on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 25th. He died the next morning about four o'clock.

With much respect, I remain,

Your obt. servant,

JOHN T. RAY.

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### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

**Prophylactic Value of Belladonna in Scarlatina.**—BENJ. BELL, Esq., in the course of a narrative of an epidemic of scarlatina, which appeared in Edinburgh in 1831, mentions the internal use of belladonna. He says that, "conceiving that no means for arresting the disease should be omitted, and that a favorable opportunity offered for testing the alleged prophylactic virtues of belladonna, he determined to give it a fair trial; accordingly, after the occurrence of the second case in the hospital to which he is attached, in which a number of boys are educated, he gave to each the fifth of a grain night and morning. This caused dilated pupil, and the dose was, therefore, diminished, and given uninterruptedly for a month, during which time no case had occurred. There was, therefore, a sufficient time for it to manifest its prophylactic power, if any were possessed, but the subsequent occurrence of several cases served to render this property doubtful.—*Monthly Jour.*, Aug., 1851.

**Influence of Geological Formations in the Production of Disease.**—Dr. MANTELL, in a lecture on the medical topography of Sussex, delivered at the last annual meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, expressed the opinion that ague, typhus fever, &c., depended not altogether on dampness, but from something generated in a locality. Years ago he was practising as a surgeon at Ringmer and in the surrounding parishes, and so distinctly did he find fevers confined to a district where the blue clay succeeded the chalk, that, at his

representation, the healthy chalk site of the old barracks was retained by government for use in the event of another war breaking out. In fact, a geological map, denoting the locality of the blue clay, would denote peculiarly the region of fever. Dr. Mantell then mentioned that ague, typhus, &c., used to prevail on the low grounds contiguous to the river at Lewes, but not on the chalk; and an instance of the periodical attack of fever in the autumn, of a family living on the top of the chalk-hill, which was got rid of by the removal of an accumulation of dung from a large stable. Some cases of cholera in the neighbourhood of a large uncovered sewer at Chelsea, were also mentioned as showing the local origin of disease. He also spoke of the theory of a French physician, who came to England in the last time of cholera, that cholera depended on the galvanic condition of the rocks of the district. He conceived that alternations of sand and clay gave rise to galvanic action; and, with his theory in mind, he traced the progress of the cholera in France and England. He said he had been to the Registrar-General, who told him that cholera was owing to the poverty of the people, to dirt, and to stink; but, he added, "You have always poverty and dirt and stink, but not always the cholera."—*Medical Times*, Aug. 16th, 1851.

**Fish-oil in Rickets.**—Dr. TROUSSEAU, Physician to the Children's Hospital at Paris, speaks very highly of the different fish-oils, viz., cod, ray, shark, whale, &c., for the treatment of rickets; but cod-liver oil is the variety which Dr. Trousseau prescribes most frequently. Rapidly-increasing doses, never exceeding one ounce and a half, taken for two or three months, have cured children of one and two years who could not walk, and whose limbs were bending under them. Cod-liver oil has been for a long period a common remedy on the coasts of the Baltic for ricketty children.

**The Sanitary Conference at Paris.**—The first meeting of the Sanitary Conference took place on the 23d July, in the hotel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was attended by delegates from Great Britain, France, Austria, Spain, Sardinia, and Greece. The delegates were called together by M. David, Minister Plenipoten-

tiary and Delegate from France, who, in a brief address, welcomed the delegates to Paris, and expressed a hope that their deliberations would be of great service to the interests of the several States which they represented. The first proceeding was the election of a president of the conference, when M. David was chosen unanimously. This was the principal business of the meeting, which was adjourned for several days to allow time for the arrival of delegates who are expected from Russia, Turkey, Tuscany, the Roman States, the Two Sicilies, Portugal, and others. Great Britain is represented at the conference by Dr. Sutherland and Sir Anthony Perrier, Consul at Brest. It is stated that the French Government attach much importance to the Sanitary Conference.—*London Med. Gaz.*, Sept. 1851.

**Operation for Cataract on a Bear.** *Death from Chloroform.*—A surgical operation under the influence of chloroform, performed at Berlin, has just terminated fatally, to the regret of the public, to whom the patient was well known. One of the brown bears in the Zoological Garden suffering from cataract of the eye, an eminent surgeon and a party of *gelehrter* assembled to undertake his cure. Bruin was tempted to the bars of his den by the offer of some bread, and then secured by ropes and a muzzle. After a stout resistance, chloroform was administered. In a state of insensibility the cataract was removed, and the bonds untied, but the patient showed no signs of life! Feathers to the nose, cold buckets of water, and bleeding, produced no effect. Poor bruin had gone whither the great tortoise, two ostriches, and the African lion had preceded him, for the managers of the Berlin gardens are decidedly unlucky. With the trifling drawback of the death of the subject, the operation was skillfully and successfully performed.—*Ibid.*

**Obituary Record.**—Died, on the 17th of Sept. last, after a few hours' illness, John Kidd, M. D., Regius Professor of Medicine, Tomline's Prælector of Anatomy, Aldrichian Professor of Anatomy, and Radcliffe's Librarian; Oxford.

— At Chelmsford, on the 2d of Sept., Dr. J. C. Badeley.